(Ireland.)

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B I L L

To abolish the Catholic Oath as a Qualification for Voters at Elections in Ireland.

[Note.—The Words printed in *Italics* are proposed to be inserted in the Committee.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Relief of his Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects," it was amongst other things enacted, that persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion, being otherwise qualified, should be entitled to vote at Elections of Members to serve in Parliament upon their taking and subscribing a certain Oath therein set forth, which said Oath was thereby substituted for and directed to be taken in place of the several Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy and Abjuration, and instead of the Declaration at that time required, and instead also of such other Oath or Oaths as were then by law required to be taken by any of his Majesty's Subjects professing the Roman Catholic Religion: And whereas another Act was passed in the second and third years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to amend the Representation of the People of Ireland:"

And whereas doubts have existed whether, under the provisions of the said last-mentioned Act, it continues to be necessary for persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion in Ireland, being otherwise qualified to take and subscribe the said Oath previous to voting at the Election of Members to serve in Parliament, and great diversity of practice

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practice has prevailed in this respect: And whereas it is expedient that such doubts should be removed;

BE it therefore Enacted and Declared, by The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT from and after the *passing of this Act*, no person professing the Roman Catholic Religion in Ireland, being otherwise qualified, shall be required to take the said Oath previous to voting at the Election of Members to serve in Parliament, and that Her Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects shall be admitted to vote at such Elections on the same conditions and on the taking of the same Oaths as are by law required to be taken by Her Majesty's Protestant Subjects in that part of the United Kingdom.

Roman Catholics not to be required to take the Oath required by the recited Act.

Roman Catholic Oaths (Ireland).

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B I L L

To abolish the Catholic Oath as a Qualification for Voters at Elections in Ireland.

(Prepared and brought in by Mr. Ross and Mr. Serjeant Murphy.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 15 *May* 1843.

255.

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